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RNR 015

PRESIDENT-KREMLIN

MOSCOW, AUG. 13, REUTER--A SENIOR KREMLIN SPOKESMAN SUGGESTED TO MILLIONS OF SOVIET TELEVISION VIEWERS TONIGHT THAT RICHARD NIXON HAD TO RESIGN THE UNITED STATES PRESIDENCY BECAUSE OF POLITICAL MANEUVERING BY THE DEMOCRATS AND A CAMPAIGN AGAINST HIM BY THE MEDIA.

IN THE FIRST DETAILED SOVIET COMMENT ON MR. NIXON'S DEPARTURE, OFFICIAL TASS NEWS AGENCY DIRECTOR GENERAL LEONID ZAMYATIN SAID THE WATERGATE AFFAIR WAS SIMPLY USED AS A "WEAPON IN THE INTER-PARTY STRUGGLE."

IN A 30-MINUTE DISCUSSION OF THE DRAMA IN WASHINGTON WITH MOSCOW TELEVISION COMMENTATOR VALENTIN ZORIN, MR. ZAMYATIN--WHO WAS SPOKESMAN FOR THE KREMLIN DURING MR. NIXON'S SOVIET VISIT SIX WEEKS AGO--MADE NO MENTION OF THE VARIOUS CHARGES FORMULATED AGAINST THE EX-PRESIDENT.

THE TASS CHIEF, WHOSE POST GIVES HIM MINISTERIAL RANK, TOLD VIEWERS THAT THE IMPETUS FOR INVESTIGATING THE WATERGATE AFFAIR ONLY CAME AFTER THE DEMOCRATS HAD BEEN HEAVILY DEFEATED AT THE 1972 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS.

MORE 1630

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RNR 016

PRESIDENT-KREMLIN 2 MOSCOW

MR. ZAMYATIN SAID WATERGATE "WAS IN FACT MADE USE OF AS THE CHIEF WEAPON IN THE INTER-PARTY STRUGGLE, BUT WAS GIVEN THE COLORATION OF A CONFLICT BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE, IN THE PERSON OF THE PRESIDENT, AND THE LEGISLATIVE POWER, REPRESENTED BY CONGRESS."

HE CONTINUED: "I THINK THAT ALL THE SHARPNESS AND EMOTIONAL HEAT OF THIS AFFAIR WAS TO A CONSIDERABLE DEGREE A CONTINUATION OF THE INTER-PARTY ELECTORAL STRUGGLE, WHICH BEGAN IN 1972 AFTER THE CRUSHING DEFEAT OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY...."

"THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY HAD TO WORK OUT SOME SORT OF BASE OR PLATFORM IN ITS PREPARATION FOR THE MID-TERM ELECTION THIS NOVEMBER, AND THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS OF 1976," MR. ZAMYATIN SAID.

"BUT I THINK TO PUT EVERYTHING DOWN TO THE INTER-PARTY STRUGGLE IN THE WATERGATE AFFAIR WOULD BE A ONE-SIDED APPROACH. IN THE AFFAIR, A NUMBER OF OTHER FACTORS THAT AROSE WITHIN THE U.S. PLAYED THEIR ROLE," HE SAID.

MORE 1632

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RNR 013

PRESIDENT-KREMLIN 3 MOSCOW (RNR 016)

AT THIS POINT MR. ZORIN INTERVIEWED TO SAY THAT U.S. ECONOMIC PROBLEMS HAD ALSO PLAYED A ROLE IN THE COMPLICATED AND DIFFICULT ECONOMIC SITUATION THE U.S. HAD CREATED A CERTAIN BACKGROUND AND A CERTAIN DISCOMFORT AMONG THE AMERICAN PEOPLE," HE SAID.

MR. ZAMYATIN AGREED, BUT SAID, "THERE WAS A PROPAGANDISTIC BACKGROUND THAT WAS ALSO ADDED ON TO THIS." DURING A RECENT VISIT TO THE U.S., HE SAID, HE HAD OBSERVED "ALL THE EMOTIONAL HEAT THAT WAS BEING CREATED ROUND THE PRESIDENT AND AROUND THIS ENTIRE AFFAIR THROUGH THE MASS INFORMATION MEDIA."

HE CONTINUED, "A VERY DEFINITE BRAINWASHING OF U.S. PUBLIC OPINION WAS TAKING PLACE BOTH ON RADIO AND TELEVISION, AND CERTAINLY NOT IN FAVOR OF THE PRESIDENT, FOR INTERNAL POLITICAL MOTIVES. THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE CAMPAIGN THE CHIEF MOTIVE WAS AN INTERNAL POLITICAL ONE."

LATER IN THE DISCUSSION HE DISCOUNTED WHAT HE SAID WERE SUGGESTIONS BEING MADE ABROAD THAT SOVIET POLICY TOWARDS THE U.S. MIGHT NOW CHANGE. "OUR POLICY IS PART OF OUR PROGRAM FOR PEACE," MR. ZAMYATIN TOLD VIEWERS.

MORE 1651

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RNR 019

PRESIDENT-KREMLIN 4 MOSCOW

EARLIER IN THE DAY SOVIET PRESIDENT NIKOLAI PODGORNYY SAID IN A TELEGRAM OF CONGRATULATIONS TO U.S. PRESIDENT GERALD FORD THAT THE KREMLIN WAS CONFIDENT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO POWERS WOULD CONTINUE TO IMPROVE UNDER THE NEW WASHINGTON ADMINISTRATION.

THE SOVIET LEADER SAID IN THE TELEGRAM THAT THERE HAD BEEN MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS IN SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS IN RECENT YEARS AND, REFERRING TO PRESIDENT FORDS INAUGURAL ADDRESS YESTERDAY, CONTINUED, "WE NOTE WITH DEEP SATISFACTION YOUR STATEMENT OF AUG. 9 ABOUT YOUR INTENTION TO WORK FOR THE GOOD OF PEACE.

"WE EXPRESS CONFIDENCE THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE USSR AND THE UNITED STATES WILL RECEIVE A FURTHER CONSTRUCTIVE DEVELOPMENT IN THE COMING YEARS FOR THE BENEFIT OF OUR PEOPLES, AND IN THE INTERESTS OF STRENGTHENING UNIVERSAL PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY," PRESIDENT PODGORNYY SAID.

REUTER 1653

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